

REMARKS

In the non-final action of August 3, 2006, the Examiner examined claims 1-18, and, of those, rejected claims 1- 18. Claims 1-18 are currently pending, of which claims 1 and 15 are independent. Claim 11 has been amended to correct an informality in response to an objection. No new matter has been introduced. Applicant asks that all claims be allowed in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

Claim Objection

The amendment of claim 11 to correct an informality in response to the objection is believed to address all of the Examiner's concerns. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the claim objection be withdrawn.

Rejection under Section 102

Claims 1-5, 8, 12-16 and 18 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,243,088 (McCormack). Applicant request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because McCormack does not describe or suggest "ceasing to display the first panel and displaying the second panel using one of the at least two different settings by which more of the navigation controls remain unchanged from the first setting," as recited by independent claims 1 and 15.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of successively displaying panels in a computer user interface. The method includes displaying a first panel of a plurality of panels in a computer user interface. Each of the panels includes different information. The computer user interface has navigation controls by which a user can navigate to any one of the panels to access its information. A first setting of the navigation controls causes the first panel to be displayed. The method also includes receiving a user input requesting access to information on a second panel in the computer user interface. There are at least two different settings of the navigation controls that will cause the second panel to be displayed. The method further includes ceasing to display the first panel and displaying the second panel using one of the at least two different settings by which more of the navigation controls remain unchanged from the first setting.

McCormack, by contrast, discloses a common method of navigating a series of display panels through the use of next, previous, cancel and site buttons. See McCormack at col. 5, line 66 to col. 7, line 5. McCormack discloses use of next and previous buttons to enable a user to display a panel that is next in a sequence of panels (by selecting a next button) or re-display a panel that was displayed immediately previously to the panel currently being displayed and having the "previous button" that was selected, respectively. See McCormack at col. 6, lines 28-42. McCormack also discloses "tasks" that correspond to menu selections on a main screen such that selection of a task controls the sequence of panels that are presented. See McCormack at col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 6 (referring to FIG. 2). The same panel may be accessed in the panel sequence of different tasks. See McCormack at col. 6, lines 7-21 (referring to FIG. 2). McCormack also discloses that "[w]hen a panel belongs to the panel sequence of more than one task, the panel that is "next" may vary based on which panel sequence the user is following (i.e. which task is being performed)." See McCormack at col. 6, lines 51-54. As such, McCormack indicates that the panel sequence (or task) being executed controls the display of a subsequent panel.

McCormack further discloses that the "[s]election of the cancel button 254 causes the software application to cease displaying the current panel and to return to displaying the main screen 202 [and discarding] all of the information entered through the panels in the panel sequence." See McCormack at col. 6, lines 55-60. As such, McCormack indicates display of the main screen in response to selection of a cancel button. With regard to the site button, McCormack discloses that the "[s]election of the site button 256 causes user-specified functionality to be invoked." See McCormack at col. 6, lines 61-62. McCormack indicates that a use of the site button enables customization of the panel sequence provided by the software application developer. See McCormack at col. 7, lines 2-5.

The action indicates that McCormack's next, previous and cancel buttons correspond to the claimed navigation controls. See action at page 2, lines 16-18 and 22-23. As best understood, the action seems to indicate that McCormack's tasks correspond to the claimed

settings of the navigation controls. See action at page 2, lines 18-19 (stating "wherein a first setting (i.e. task 230 then next button 250) of the navigation controls") and lines 22-23.

Assuming only for the sake of argument that the correspondence to the claimed elements drawn by the action is correct, McCormack does not describe or suggest "ceasing to display the first panel and displaying the second panel *using one of the at least two different settings by which more of the navigation controls remain unchanged from the first setting.*" as recited by claim 1. As required by antecedent basis of claim 1, "the at least two different settings" refers to "there being at least two different settings of the navigation controls that will cause the second panel to be displayed." Although McCormack discloses that the task being executed controls which panel is displayed and McCormack discloses that some or all of the navigation buttons are present on "some or all of the panels associated with tasks 230, 232 and 234," see McCormack at col. 6, lines 24-27, McCormack does not describe or suggest ceasing to display the first panel and displaying the second panel using one of the tasks (said to correspond to a setting of the navigation control) by which more of the navigation buttons (i.e., next, previous or cancel and said to correspond to navigation controls) remain unchanged from a different task. As such, McCormack does not describe or suggest "ceasing to display the first panel and displaying the second panel *using one of the at least two different settings by which more of the navigation controls remain unchanged from the first setting,*" as recited by claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-14.

Similarly to claim 1, claim 15 also recites "ceasing to display the first panel and display the second panel using one of the at least two different settings by which more of the navigation controls remain unchanged from the first setting." Accordingly, at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 and its dependent claims 16-18.

Rejections under Section 103

Claims 6 and 7, which each depend from independent claim 1, have been rejected as being unpatentable over McCormack in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,088 (Ulder). Ulder,

which is cited in the action for disclosing navigation controls comprising tab sets, does not remedy the failure of McCormack to describe or suggest the subject matter of independent claim 1. Nor does the action contend Ulder does so. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 6 and 7.

Claims 9, 10 and 17, which each depend from one of independent claims 1 or 15, have been rejected as being unpatentable over McCormack in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,341,359 (Aiken). Aiken, which is cited in the action for disclosing diagnostics and various types of messages, does not remedy the failure of McCormack to describe or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 9, 10 and 17.

Claims 11, which depends from claim 1, has been rejected as being unpatentable over McCormack in view of Microsoft (Windows XP, Microsoft Support Article, ID #320168). Microsoft discloses techniques by which a user can configure Microsoft Windows operating system to automatically reopen windows that were open when the user previously logged off. As such, Microsoft does not remedy the failure of McCormack to describe or suggest the subject matter of independent claim 1. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claim 11.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.


It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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No fee is believed due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

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